

Timeline: St John serving New Zealanders for 125 years



St John
first to care

1880s

- 1885** St John in New Zealand begins.
Christchurch centre of St John Ambulance Association forms first, following a meeting on 30 April.
Association centres also form this year in Wellington, Nelson and Invercargill.

- 1888** Otago centre of Association forms.

1890s

- 1891** First recorded case of St John aid on a sports field, at a rugby match in Christchurch.

- 1892** Auckland centre of Association forms.
Dunedin Ambulance Corps becomes first registered overseas division of St John Ambulance Brigade.

- 1895** Dunedin Nursing Corps becomes first registered New Zealand nursing division, and launches home nursing service two years later.

- 1899** New Plymouth centre of Association forms.
St John members help in Rakaia rail disaster – first civil disaster involving St John (11 March).

1900s

- 1902** St John district nursing service forms in Wellington.
Former president of Association centre in Christchurch becomes president of St John centres in New Zealand.

1910s

- 1915** St John acquires what is probably its first motor ambulance in New Zealand – in Timaru.
1918 Association and Brigade members offer distinguished service during flu pandemic.

1920s

- 1926** Wanganui, Timaru and Invercargill centres of the Association form.
1927 First New Zealand Cadet division of Brigade forms in Wanganui.

1930s

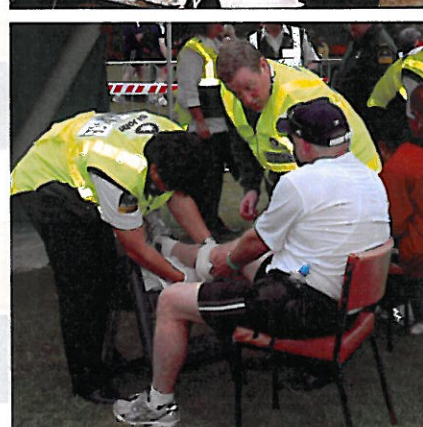
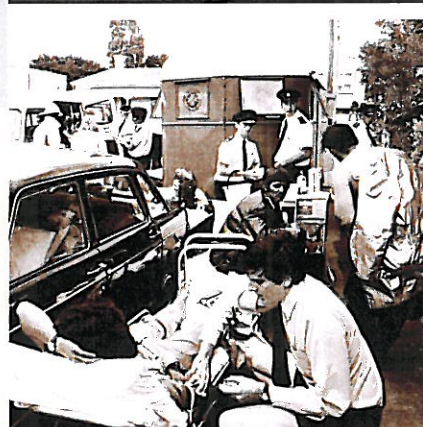
- 1931** Association and Brigade members offer distinguished service in Hawkes Bay earthquake.
St John Commandery in New Zealand forms in Wellington.
1934 First recorded St John-sponsored use of aircraft for ambulance work.

1940s

- 1940** Hawkes Bay centre of Association forms.
1943 Manawatu centre of Association forms.
1945 South Auckland centre of Association constitutes.
1946 St John Commandery in New Zealand becomes a Priory.

1950s

- 1950** Overseas Brigades reorganise, transferring control from London to national Priories.
1953 Visit to New Zealand by Queen Elizabeth II, sovereign head of St John, and Duke of Edinburgh.



1960s

- 1962** First mixed Cadet divisions of Brigade start in New Zealand.
1965 St John personnel offer valuable service during Mt Eden Prison riots (20–21 July).
1967 Wairarapa centre and Nelson and Marlborough centre of Association form.

1970s

- 1974** Bay of Plenty centre reorganises, and Waikato and King Country centre forms.
Royal charter gives women members of St John equal rights with men in governance.
1975 National Telethon raises \$593,767 for St John ambulance officer training in New Zealand (5–6 July).

1980s

- 1981** Brigade and ambulance services help the injured during nationwide protests against the visit of the South African rugby team.
1985 Centenary of St John Ambulance Association in New Zealand. Festivities attended by Grand Prior and his wife, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester (Easter).
1987 Association and Brigade merge in New Zealand under the single name St John.
1988 St John Cadets in New Zealand become known as St John Youth.

1990s

- 1993** St John begins selling St John Lifelink medical alarms – a service helping elderly or disabled people remain independent in their own homes.
1995 St John launches Caring Caller telephone support service in Auckland after a successful 12-month trial.

2000s

- 2000** New Zealand hosts international St John meetings in Wellington.
2000–2007 St John led a nationwide project to consolidate and upgrade the country's ambulance communications centres.
2001 New national structure for St John in New Zealand comes into effect. Services rationalised and standardised to enhance delivery and effectiveness.
St John Friends of the Emergency Department launched in Auckland – volunteers supporting patients and families in hospital emergency departments.
2002 New St John uniform introduced in New Zealand.
2006 A single national management structure was introduced for a number of operational responsibilities – to improve efficiency and ensure consistent, coordinated services.
2008 St John entered a community partnership with ASB, to increase St John profile, fundraising and services.
Māori King Tuheitia Paki is made an Officer of St John at Turangawaewae Marae, Ngāruawāhia.
2009 St John publishes *First to Care: 125 Years of the Order of St John in New Zealand, 1885–2010*, by Graeme Hunt.
2010 St John celebrates 125 years in New Zealand.